Together, let's support local businesses, the bedrock of our communities.

LETTER TO READERS, PAGE A19

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The Columbus Dispatch

Thursday, March 19, 2020 | Get the Dispatch on mobile | dispatch.com | $3

Good deeds galore

Lia Pickel, left, and Ashley Kanney canvass the Jerome Village neighborhood of Plain City on Wednesday, tying plastic bags on front doors. The bags contain flyers asking for food donations to support Feed the Kids Columbus, which is providing food for students while they're out of school. [BARBARA J. PERENIC/DISPATCH]

Hundreds step up to fill voids for others during coronavirus outbreak

Holly Zachariah
The Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

The two women walked up and down the street Wednesday, plastic bags in hand.

House by house, Ashley Kanney and Lia Pickel made their way down Cottonwood Drive in the Jerome Village neighborhood of Plain City and hooked a plastic grocery bag to door handles. Each bag had a flyer that showed a little red wagon stuffed with food. Included was a plea: "Help us help them!"

The "them" is hungry children.

"I think everyone is feeling upside down," said Kanney, a 37-year-old mother of three who, after coronavirus has altered our way of life the past 10 days, threw herself into this project to help others. "I felt this extraordinary

"I think everyone is feeling upside down. I felt this extraordinary need to do something meaningful immediately and I assumed others were feeling the same way."

Ashley Kanney
Plain City resident

See DEEDS, Page A6

Trump takes action amid virus crisis

Tim Sullivan, David Rising, Jonathan Lemire and Jill Colvin
ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump on Wednesday moved to invoke a federal law that allows the government to marshal the private sector to fight the coronavirus epidemic, as the economic damage mounted with word that Detroit's Big Three automakers agreed to shut down all their factories to protect workers.

On a day of head-spinning developments, stocks tumbled again on Wall Street, falling so fast they triggered another automatic trading halt. The Dow Jones industrial average shed more than 1,300 points, or over 6 percent, and has now lost nearly all the big gains it registered since Trump's inauguration. Oil dropped below $21 per barrel for the first time since 2002.

Inside & online

More on the virus: **A3-4, A16, B1, B4, B6, C1-2**

• As a public service, virus coverage on **Dispatch.com** is presented at no charge.

See ACTION, Page A4

What just happened to our election?

Anna Staver
The Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

A lot has happened in the past 72 hours.

The Buckeye State went from having a primary election Tuesday to possibly not having one and then back to having one before Ohio Health Director Dr. Amy Acton issued an order to close polling places across the state.

"Look, we can all look back and say, 'I wish I'd done that,'" Gov. Mike DeWine said Tuesday about delays in postponing the election. "I wish I made it earlier, but that's when we made that decision. And that's where we are today."

Inside

Latest developments, **B1**

See ELECTION, Page A6

Salons, BMV offices latest to be closed

Max Filby
The Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Mike DeWine announced Wednesday that all salons, spas, tattoo parlors and nearly all Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles offices will close in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Salons, spas and tattoo parlors were to close at the end of business Wednesday. All but five Ohio BMV offices will shutter though some services will remain available online, the governor said.

DeWine also asked that businesses start to check the temperatures of people who still have to report to their workplaces.

"The virus is here," DeWine said. "It lives among us, and we must be at war with it."

In an attempt to slow the spread of the virus, the governor already had closed schools, gyms, bars, restaurants, movie theaters and more. If Ohioans refuse to listen and stay home, DeWine said, he may have to close everything except essential services.

See OFFICES, Page A5

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Walnut Ridge star honored as Ohio Mr. Basketball, **C1**

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